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a question of this kind. When we consider that a majority of the commission appointed by the Ministry of Instruction to prepare a system of orthography were in favor of making this change, our author's statement seems excessive. His claim, too, that the poets and not the philologists are the ones most competent to judge in this matter, would certainly not hold good in this country.

The first part of the pamphlet is devoted to showing the advantage of the present system in preventing misunderstandings. In Danish, as in English, there are many nouns and verbs having exactly the same form. In Danish these words are distinguished by the use of the capital with the noun, while in English we are forced to distinguish them by their relations to other words and by the general meaning of the passage. The examples cited by the author offer, no doubt, possible misconceptions, especially for a foreigner, though many of them, as he himself adds, may be understood by a second and more careful reading, thereby, however, entailing an additional, unnecessary expenditure of time and labor. HERR VON DER RECKE is quite right in asserting that the use of capitals for all nouns obviates many possibilities of misunderstanding, and he does well to devote so much space to this part of an otherwise rather weak argument.

The favorite argument of the reformers, that as the necessity for capitals is not felt in other languages (Swedish, French, English, etc.), therefore they can equally well be dispensed with in Danish, is met by the author with the statement that Danish offers many more opportunities for confusion between nouns and other parts of speech than any of these languages, and he defends this statement by comparing similar passages from the different languages, according to which the possibilities of confusion in Danish appear to be twice as numerous as those in any of the other languages. This comparison is scarcely complete enough to be accepted as final, but it must be admitted that the number of common forms existing in Danish is very great, greater even than in English.

HERR VON DER RECKE has not considered at all the positive advantage of our own system of capitals in distinguishing proper from com-

mon nouns, a part of the subject that certainly deserves some notice, and the statement that the excessive use of capitals disfigures the printed page is dismissed with scarcely a word.

The claim for the retention of capitals on the ground of their intimate relation to the development of the national literature may be a weak one, viewed from the practical or the scientific side, but it is one that should by no means be disregarded. Oehlenschläger and Holberg printed according to our system of capitalization would certainly lose somewhat of their character, but HERR VON DER RECKE goes too far in stating that many nuances in Danish writers owe their origin to the use of capitals in all nouns. One might as well say that the delicacy of the Victorian poets is owing in great measure to the modern system of punctuation. We must, however, allow much for national prejudices. We Americans admit the superiority of the metric system over our own ridiculous method of computing distances and dimensions, but we still retain the latter. The author makes an eloquent appeal for the established state of things, and if we cannot agree with his views we can at least sympathize with his feelings. This pamphlet is by far the best presentation of the conservative arguments on this subject yet given, and it deserves to be read by all Danish students. The style, barring the excessive use of foreign words, is admirable and the reasoning, even when devoted to weak arguments, is clear and forcible.

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WEITERE BEITRÄGE ZU MICHAËLIS' PORTUGIESISCHEM WÖRTER-BUCH.

ALLOTROPO, m.: scheideform (=fórma divergente). *Revista lusitana*, 1887, p. 208.

ANALPHABETO, ad.: unwissend, ungebildet, ungeschult. 'O Positivismo,' II, p. 510; *Revista de Estudos livres*, 1885, p. 381. Cf. VIEIRA, s. v.

AUTOAR, v. a.: gerichtlich belangen, verfolgen. 'E' essa escola e esse partido que . . . supprimem conferencias, mandam autoar os seus promovedores. 'O Positivismo,' II, p. 504.

- AUTOGENICO, ad.: schöpferisch (= creador). Tem dentro de si *um foco autogenico* de concepções sempre novas. 'O Posit.' IV, p. 172.
- AZARANZAR, v. a.: stutzig machen, verwirren. Por fim a indústria portuguesa contrafez também, em Lisboa; *azaranzada*, porém, com o contra-senso de escrever fósforos de segurança sem fósforo, limita-se a dizer sem enxofre. *Revista lusitana*, 1887, p. 221.
- CANIBALESICO, ad.: nach art der kannibalen, kannibalisch. 'O Posit.', II, p. 313.
- CANTONALISMO, m.: sondergeist, sondertum, particularismus. 'O Posit.', II, pp. 419, 420 et passim. (Gegensatz: nacionalismo).
- COLLECTIVISTA, m.: Communist. 'O Posit.', IV, p. 245 et passim.
- DECHRISTIANISAÇÃO, f.: entchristlichung. 'O Posit.', II, p. 505.
- DEMOPSYCHOLOGIA, f.: Erforschung der volksseele, demopsychologie. J. LEITA DE VASCONCELLOS, 'Tradições', p. 2.
- DEMOPSYCHOLOGO, m.: Erforscher der volksseele, demopsycholog.
- DESAMORTISAÇÃO, f.: rechtlichmachung von gütern toter hand. 'O Posit.', IV, p. 313.
- DESIDERATUM, m.: vermisste und begehrte sache; desideratum. 'O Posit.', II, p. 505.
- DESSORAÇÃO, f.: auflösung in wasser; fig. auflösung (= dissolução). 'O Posit.', IV, p. 311.
- ESPHACELAMENTO, m.: verderbnis: untergang. 'O Posit.', IV, p. 315.
- ETIQUETAR, v. a.: mit einem zettel versehen, auszeichnen. 'O Posit.', IV, p. 127.
- EVHEMERISAR, v. a.: vermenschlichen? 'O Posit.', IV, pp. 435, 436, 438.
- FACCIOSISMO, m.: factionenwesen, parteiwesen. 'O Posit.', II, p. 508.
- FARELORIOS, (pl. von *farelorio*): allerlei kleines gebäck, besonders für festliche anlässe.
- HOMOLOGAR, v. a.: entsprechend machen, angleichen. 'O Posit.', IV, p. 435.
- HYPOSTHENISADOR, ad.: schwächend, entnervend. *Revista lus.*, 1887, p. 2.
- IDEA, f. *idea mãe*: grundidee. *A idea mãe* que presidiu á elaboração do methodo de leitura. 'O Posit.', III, p. 124.
- IGUALITARIO, ad.: gleichheitsfreundlich. 'O Posit.', III, p. 166.
- LETRA, f.: *letra morta*, toter buchstabe, kraftlozes gesetz. 'O Posit.', II, p. 509.
- LIVRE, ad. *livre-arbitrio*, m. freie wille; willkühr. 'O Posit.', II, p. 503; IV, 378.
- LIVRE-EXAME, m. freie prüfung, freie forschung. 'O Posit.', IV, 312. Cf. VIERA, s. v.
- MANUZAÇÃO, f.: handlichkeit. Este livro . . . é de facil manuseação e rapida consulta. *Revista de Estudos livres*, 1886, p. 417.
- MARAVILHOSO, m.: das übernatürliche; der wunderschatz. Quando cada raça tiver colleccionado todos os elementos do *seu maravilho*. 'O Posit.', II, p. 272; ib. p. 274 et passim. Cf. VIERA, s. v.
- MEGALOMANIA, f.: grössenwahnsinn. 'O Posit.', IV, p. 430.
- MEGALOMANIACO, m.: einer der am grösserwahnsinn leidet. 'O Posit.', IV, p. 431.
- MESOLOGIA, f. Die lehre von der abhängigkeit der phenomena von ihrer umgebung. 'O Posit.', II, p. 414.
- MESOLOGICO, ad. von umgebenden zuständen bedingt. 'O Posit.', II, p. 406 et passim.
- MESSIANICO, ad.: messianisch. 'O Posit.', II, p. 312.
- MONOGENISTA, m.: Anhänger der lehre von der abstammung des menschengeschlechts von einem paare. 'O Posit.', II, pp. 102, 411.
- NATURALISTICO, ad.: naturalistisch, den naturglauben bekennd. 'O Posit.', II, p. 326.
- OPERARIADO, m.: arbeitersstand, handwerkerstand. 'O Posit.', IV, p. 244.
- ORGIASTICO, ad.: schwärmerisch, begeistert. 'O Posit.', II, p. 435.
- PEDRA f. *pedra de linho*, ein stein flachs (altes gewicht = 14 *arrateis*).
- RADIOSCOPO, m. radiometer, gradbogen, jakobsstab. 'O Posit.', II, p. 416; IV, p. 373.
- RECEBER-SE, v. r.: sich verheiraten (= casarse). Cf. LACERDO, VIERA s. v.
- RELATIVISMO, m.: relativismus. O *relativismo* sociologico designa a natureza das energias sociaes. 'O Posit.', II, p. 167. et passim.
- SENSITARIO, ad. etwa: die denk =, urteilsfreiheit betreffend. Essa escola e esse partido que admittem o suffragio universal e as limitações *sensitarias*. 'O Posit.', II, p. 503.
- SOCIOLATRICO, ad.: die genossenschaft, gesellschaft anbetend, verehrend. A comemoração dos grandes typos da humanidade foi particularisada por Augusto

Comte em cerimonia *sociolátricas*, que foram immobilisar-se no formalismo de uma religião demonstrada. 'O Posit.,' II, p. 513.

SOPHISMAR, v. a.: wegklügeln. (O povo) virá um dia a ser alguma coisa de mais nobre e de menos maleavel nas mãos dos que agora *the sophismam* todos os direitos. 'O Posit.' II, p. 175. Cf. VIERA, s. v.

SUBALTERNIDADE, f.: untergebenheit; untergeordnetheit. 'O Posit.,' III, p. 168.

TRANSVIAR, v. a.: irre leiten, irre führen. Que tudo isto era conhecido, e que sómente alludio as factos, em vista de certas accusações recentes que pareciam tender a *transviar a opinião*. *Boletim da Soc. de Geog. de Lisboa*, 1882, p. 116.

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A NORWEGIAN PLAY.

Sigurd Slembe: a Dramatic Trilogy. By BJÖRNSTJERNE BJÖRNSEN. Translated from the Norwegian by WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1888. pp. viii, 323.

In his brief but admirable preface the translator tells us that 'Sigurd Slembe' is reckoned as perhaps the noblest production of that Norwegian literature which BJÖRNSEN has created and of which he still remains the most conspicuous figure. This is a historical play of the twelfth century, the scene being laid among the Viking Chiefs of Norway and the Orkneys. The aim of this gloomy tragedy is, apparently, to purify the soul by the spectacle of the "fierce wars and faithful loves," the ferocious cruelty, and the clammy tenacity of the Northland. Its hero falls by that sin which destroyed the angels. He forsakes the mother who lives but in and for him, he forsakes the woman whose heart he wins, he makes himself a crusader, then an outlaw, he slays his brother, makes friendship impossible, steels his soul to all pity, and carries fire and sword all over his own dear Norway. Yet his intentions are good, his aims are high, and his innate nobility of character commands first our esteem and finally our pity. It is hardly to be doubted that Sigurd is an addition to the list of great ideal creations. There is a multitude of minor personages, and their profiles are cut with the sharpest precision.

As to the plot, the drama is an almost exasperating medley of cross-purposes,—of mouths that blow hot and blow cold, of people who scarcely know their own minds (well as the author makes us know them), of warriors who act when action is futile and refrain from action when alone it might avail. In this respect BJÖRNSEN seems to have modernized and Hamletized the forthright Viking character. Of course he is too massively original to imitate anyone, but traces of SHAKSPEARE'S influence are not wanting. For instance, there is a Lady Macbeth pitted against a Hamlet. From such unequal conflict Hamlet naturally withdraws by—withdrawing from life. This he does by magnanimously putting on the poisoned shirt which his devoted mother has prepared for his fraternal rival.

All this tragic action moves against the wintry background of the far North, whose bleak skies, dark waters, endless snowfields, majestic mountains, sunless fjords, are ever present by suggestion. In power of instantaneous photography of scenes and moods BJÖRNSEN ranks with the greatest. This is not the place to discuss the comparative merits of the tragedy: suffice it here to say that, for an equal display of creative dramatic force, one looks back, involuntarily, to GOETHE'S 'Faust.'

The translator's task has been performed with exceptional skill. The diction is idiomatic and homely; the phrasing remarkably crisp and clear-cut. All that any translator,—not himself a poet of genius,—could do to naturalize this great drama in Anglo-American literature, MR. PAYNE has done.

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La Langue française par PAUL BERCY, B. L., L. D. I. Méthode pratique pour l'étude de cette langue. II. Variétés historiques et littéraires. Boston: Schoenhof.

Nous n'avons pas la prétention de discuter ici la valeur intrinsèque et à beaucoup d'égards incontestable de la méthode dite naturelle. Elle a rendu, elle rend, elle rendra encore de grands services, surtout si l'on ne perd pas de vue deux faits capitaux et d'ail-